



WILLIAM and MART, by the Grace of GOD, King and Queen of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, Defenders of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deans, and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and all other Spiritual Persons: And also to all Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs Bayliffs, Constables, Church wardens, Chappel-Wardens, Headboroughs, Collectors for the Poor, and their Overseers; And also to all Officers of Cities, Boroughs, and Towns Corporate, and to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects, whatsoever they be, as well within Liberties as without, to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas the Distressed Protestants of *France* fled hither for Refuge from the Rage and Cruelty of their Persecutors, have humbly Represented to us the sad and deplorable Condition, to which Great Numbers of them are at this time Reduc'd; Notwithstanding the large Charitable Contributions which have been made for their Relief, upon Letters Patents heretofore Granted to that Purpose, by Our Royal Predecessors. And notwithstanding that, We Our Selves (from a pious and tender Commiseration of their Case,) have, since Our Accession to the Crown, out of Our Royal Bounty, Issued out of Our Treasury at several times, very considerable Sums for the necessary Support of more than Three Thousand Persons, that are in no Capacity to help themselves by their Labour; many of them, both Men and Women, being Persons of Quality, and above a Hundred of them Ministers, who cannot Relieve themselves by the Exercise of their Function for want of the *English* Tongue, besides many Hundreds of Children and others, who by reason of Sickness or Old Age, or other Infirmities, can do nothing towards a Livelihood and Support. And also a great many others, who partly upon our Gracious Invitation and Encouragement, and partly upon Necessity, not knowing whither else to fly for Safety, are lately come, and still daily endeavouring to come hither, in order to Transport themselves, and settle in *Ireland*: All which must inevitably Perish, without the speedy and charitable Help of well-disposed Persons.

We being touched with a deep Sense and tender Commiseration of their sad Sufferings in the Cause of our common Religion, and of the pressing Necessity which so many of them at present lie under, are very desirous to extend Our Royal Favour and Compassion to them: And that We may invite others by our Example, have ordered the Sum of Two Thousand Pounds to be immediately issued out of Our Exchequer, for their present Subsistence and Relief, not doubting but all Our Good and Loving Subjects, will be ready also on their Part, cheerfully to Contribute to so good a Work: That they who have with so much Difficulty and Hazard escaped the Fury of their Persecutors, and are fled hither for Refuge, may not (to the Eternal Reproach both of Our Nation and Religion) at last, for want of the Necessaries of Life, Perish in the sight of their Brethren of the same Religion, who by the infinite Goodness of God have been so wonderfully Rescued from the like Sufferings, and preserved (as it were) on purpose to be a Sanctuary and Place of Retreat for them.

Know ye therefore, that of Our Especial Grace and Compassion, and out of our pious Care and Zeal to preserve and protect the Protestant Religion, We have Given and Granted, and by these Our Letters Patents under Our Great Seal of *England*, do Give and Grant unto the said distressed Protestants, and to their Agents or other Persons (who shall be lawfully Authorized on their Behalf) full Power, Licence, and Authority, to Ask, Gather, Receive, and take (according to the Rules hereafter specified in these Presents) the Alms and Charitable Benevolence of all Our Loving Subjects, not only Householders, but also Servants, Strangers and others, Inhabiting within all and every the Counties, Cities, Boroughs, Towns Corporate, Priviledged Places, Parishes, Chappelries, Towns, Villages, Hamlets, and all other Places whatsoever, in Our Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, and Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, for, and towards the Relief of the said poor distressed and persecuted Protestants.

Wherefore We Require and Command all and singular the Archbishops, and Bishops of all and singular the Provinces and Dioceses, within Our Kingdom of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales* (unto whose Paternal Care and Inspection, We chiefly Recommend the pursuit of these Our Letters Patents) that they, and every of them do give a particular Recommendation and Command to all Parsons, Vicars and Curates, of all and every the Parishes and other Places, as well within Liberties as without, within their Respective Dioceses, for the Advancement of this so pious a Work; and the said Parsons, Vicars and Curates upon the next Lord's Day, after that the true Copies of these Our Letters Patents shall be delivered to them, shall deliberately and effectually publish and declare the Tenor of the same unto Our said Loving Subjects, and earnestly exhort persuade and stir them up to Contribute freely and cheerfully towards the Relief of their distressed Brethren. And the Church-Wardens are also hereby Required (upon the Week-Days next following the Lord's Day) to go from House to House, to Ask and Receive from all the Parishioners, as well Masters, Mistresses and Servants, as others in their Family, their Christian and Charitable Contributions; and to take the Names of all such as shall Contribute thereunto, and the Sum or Sums by them Given respectively fairly Written; and after such Collection made, they are, in the presence of the respective Inhabitants, on the next Lord's Day following, to subscribe the whole Sum upon the said Briefs under their Hands, and also to Enter them into Books of Accompts for the said Parishes and Chappelries respectively, and the Place where, and the Time when, such Sums were Collected, and they are also to deliver the same to the said Parsons, Vicars, or Curates respectively; and the said Parsons, Vicars, or Curates are to send the said Moneys, together with the said Briefs, unto the respective Arch-Deacons, as herein after is declared and directed: And for the better Performance of this so Pious and Charitable a Work, the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curates respectively are desired (where conveniently they may) to Accompany the Church-Wardens in Asking and Receiving the Contributions, or procure some other of the Chief Inhabitants to do the same.

And Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby, for the better Advancement of these Our Pious Intentions, Will, Require, and Command the Bishops, and all other Dignitaries of the Church, to make their Contributions distinctly to be return'd in the several Provinces to the respective Arch-Bishops of the same.

And also that all Our Loving Subjects of this Kingdom, of what Dignity, Degree, or Quality soever, may manifest their Zeal in so Good a Work, We do Recommend it to all Heads and Governours of Colleges and Halls in both Our Universities, and also to the Judges and Officers of all and every Our Respective Courts at *Westminster*, and the Professors of the Law, both Common and Civil, and to all Students of the several Inns of Court and *Chancery*, by their several Bodies and Societies that they and every of them, will Contribute their free and Charitable Benevolence herein.

And Lastly, Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby Recommend unto the Care and Circumspection of all and singular the Arch-Bishops and Bishops of the said Respective Provinces and Dioceses, and the Arch-Deacons, that it be so ordered, that the Collection and Return of the said Moneys may be with the most Ease, and as little Charge and Deductions to be made out of the said Contributions, as is possible. And also that the Church-Wardens of every Parish, where these Our Letters Patents shall be Read, do Collect the Charity of each Parishioner, in Manner as aforesaid, and do Pay the same within ten Days unto the Parson, Vicar or Curate of their respective Parishes, which said Parson, Vicar or Curate, shall within ten Days after his Receipt of the said Money, make Return thereof to his Respective Arch-Deacon: And where there is no Incumbent that the Collector or Collectors Pay the said Moneys to the Respective Arch-Deacons; and that the Arch-Deacon of the several Arch-Deaconries, do likewise Return the said Collections within Twenty Days next after their Receipt thereof into the Chamber of Our City of *London*, from whence We do hereby Authorize and Appoint the most Reverend Father in God the Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury* for the time Being, the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of *England*, the Lord Bishop of *London* for the time Being, the Lord Mayor of *London* for the time Being, the two Lords Chief Justices for the time Being, with Power to them, or any four or more of them, to Call such others to their Assistance as they shall think fit, to dispose and distribute the Money, in such Manner, as may best Answer those Ends, for which these Letters Patents were intended.

And We do hereby Direct, Require and Command, That the said several Arch-Deacons, shall and do Make and Return unto the said Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, the Lord Bishop of *London*, and the Lord Mayor of *London*, an Accompt of what Sums they have Received, at the same time they Pay it into the Chamber of *London*, and that all their Respective Accompts be Stated in Words at Length, and not in Figures only, and Subscribed with their own Hands; In Witness whereof, We have Caused these Our Letters to be made Patents, and to Continue for the space of One Year, next after the date hereof, and no longer. Witness Our Selves at *Westminster* the 31th day of *March*, in the Sixth Year of Our Reign.

GOD Save the KING and QUEEN.

Fail.

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